

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device operable under control of at least one processor, said gaming device comprising:

a game operable upon a wager by a player;

a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbols in said game, said symbols including at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol; and

said at least one processor programmed for a play of the game to:

(a) randomly determine a number of the positive modifier symbols to display on the reels;

(b) randomly determine a number of the negative modifier symbols to display on the reels;

(c) for each of the number of positive modifier symbols to be displayed on the reels, randomly determine a value to associate with the positive modifier symbol;

(d) for each of the number of negative modifier symbols to be displayed on the reels, randomly determine a value to associate with the negative modifier symbol;

(e) cause a display of a plurality of the symbols on the reels based on said determinations, wherein for each of any displayed positive modifier symbols and negative modifier symbols, the value associated with the symbol is masked until a triggering event occurs and an award is modified;

(b~~f~~) upon an occurrence of a the triggering event based on at least said award symbol and said positive modifier symbol being displayed simultaneously on the reels, enable a player to select an input associated with the award symbol and display an ~~the~~ award associated with said award symbol after the player selects the input;

(eg) modify the award by a designated number of positive modifiers associated with any of said positive modifier symbols displayed on said reels, and cause a display of each modification to the award from said positive modifiers;

(d~~h~~) modify the award by a designated number of negative modifiers associated with any of said negative modifier symbols displayed on said reels, and cause a display of each modification to the award from said negative modifiers; and

(e~~i~~) provide the modified award to the player for the play of the game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the positive modifier includes at least one of the following: a positive value, a positive multiplier and a positive percentage of the award.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the negative modifier includes at least one of the following: a negative value and a negative percentage of the award.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a probability of being selected is associated with each of the positive and negative modifiers.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one relatively large positive modifier and a plurality of relatively small positive modifiers are associated with the positive modifier symbol.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein the probability associated with the relatively large positive modifier is less than the at least one of the probabilities associated with the plurality of relatively small positive modifiers.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one relatively large negative modifier and a plurality of relatively small negative modifiers are associated with the negative modifier symbol.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 7, wherein the probability associated with the relatively large negative modifier is less than the plurality of probabilities associated with the plurality of relatively small negative modifiers.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of reels include a plurality of independent reels.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the triggering event occurs on a payline associated with the reels.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the triggering event occurs on a plurality of paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the award associated with the award symbol is randomly determined.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the award associated with the award symbol is predetermined.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the average value of the modifiers applied to the award is greater than zero.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of positive modifiers and the designated number of negative modifiers for each symbol are randomly determined.

Claims 16 to 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 18, wherein the triggering event occurs when at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol occur on the reels.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a game operable upon a wager by a player;
- a plurality of reels in the game including a plurality of symbols, said symbols including at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol;
- an award adapted to be provided to a player, the award associated with an award symbol;
- at least one positive modifier value and at least one negative modifier value associated with each of said positive and negative modifier symbols occurring on the reels, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is greater than zero; and
- a processor programmed for each play of the game to:
 - (a) randomly determine a number of the positive modifier symbols to display on the reels;
 - (b) randomly determine a number of the negative modifier symbols to display on the reels;
 - (c) for each of the number of positive modifier symbols to be displayed on the reels, randomly determine a value to associate with the positive modifier symbol;
 - (d) for each of the number of negative modifier symbols to be displayed on the reels, randomly determine a value to associate with the negative modifier symbol;
 - (ae) cause a display of a plurality of the symbols on the reels based on said determinations, wherein the positive modifier symbol and the negative modifier symbol are able to be simultaneously displayed and activated, wherein for each of any displayed positive modifier symbols and negative modifier symbols, the value associated with the symbol is masked until a triggering event occurs and the award is modified;
 - (bf) upon an occurrence of a the triggering event, enable a player to select an input associated with the award symbol and cause a display of the award after the player selects the input;

(eg) modify the displayed award by any positive modifier values associated with any of the displayed positive modifier symbols, and cause a display of each modification to the displayed award from said positive modifier values;

(dh) modify the award by any negative modifier values associated with any of the displayed negative modifier symbols, and cause a display of each modification to the displayed award from said negative modifier values; and

(ei) provide the modified award to the player for the play of the game.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers in a plurality of the spins of the reels is approximately zero.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device having a game operable upon a wager, the method comprising:

(a) randomly determining a number of positive modifier symbols to display on a plurality of reels;

(b) randomly determining a number of negative modifier symbols to display on the plurality of reels;

(c) for each of the number of positive modifier symbols to be displayed on the plurality of reels, randomly determining a value to associate with the positive modifier symbol;

(d) for each of the number of negative modifier symbols to be displayed on the plurality of reels, randomly determining a value to associate with the negative modifier symbol;

(~~a~~e) activating and displaying a ~~the~~ plurality of reels based on said determinations, the plurality of reels including a plurality of symbols, said symbols including at least one award symbol, ~~at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol,~~ wherein for each of any displayed positive modifier symbols and negative modifier symbols, the value associated with the symbol is masked until a bonus game is initiated and a bonus award is modified;

(~~b~~f) initiating a ~~the~~ bonus game including a ~~the~~ bonus award when at least said award symbol and said positive modifier symbol are simultaneously displayed on the reels;

(~~e~~g) enabling a player to select an input associated with the award symbol and displaying the bonus award after the player selects the input;

(~~d~~h) modifying the displayed bonus award with a designated number of negative modifiers associated with any of said negative modifier symbols displayed on the reels;

(~~e~~i) displaying each modification to the displayed bonus award from said negative modifiers;

(~~f~~j) modifying the bonus award with a designated number of positive modifiers associated with any of said positive modifier symbols displayed on the reels;

(gk) displaying each modification to the bonus award from said positive modifiers; and

(hl) providing the modified bonus award to a player.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein modifying the bonus award includes modifying the bonus award with the designated number of negative modifiers associated with any of said negative modifier symbols displayed on the reels before modifying the bonus award with the designated number of positive modifiers associated with any of said positive modifier symbols displayed on the reels.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein modifying the bonus award includes modifying the bonus award with the designated number of negative modifiers associated with any of said negative modifier symbols displayed on the reels after modifying the bonus award with the designated number of positive modifiers associated with any of said positive modifier symbols displayed on the reels.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 24, which includes associating a probability of being selected with each of the negative and positive modifiers.

Claim 28 (original): The method of Claim 24, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is approximately zero.

Claim 29 (original): The method of Claim 24, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is greater than zero.

Claims 30 to 35 (cancelled).

Claim 36 (original): The method of Claim 24, wherein initiating the bonus game includes initiating the bonus game when at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol occur on the reels.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, which is provided to the player through a data network.

Claim 38 (original): The method of Claim 37, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 39 (original): The method of Claim 24, which includes a different number of positive and negative symbols.

Claim 40 (original): The method of Claim 24, which includes a plurality of award symbols.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each positive modifier increases the award, and each negative modifier decreases the award.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein each positive modifier value increases the award, and each negative modifier value decreases the award.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein each positive modifier increases the award, and each negative modifier decreases the award.

Claim 44 (new): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the number of randomly determined positive modifier symbols is selected from the group consisting of: (a) zero, (b) one, and (c) more than one.

Claim 45 (new): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the number of randomly determined positive modifier symbols is selected from the group consisting of: (a) zero, (b) one and (c) more than one.

Claim 46 (new): The method of Claim 24, wherein the number of randomly determined positive modifier symbols is selected from the group consisting of: (a) zero, (b) one and (c) more than one.